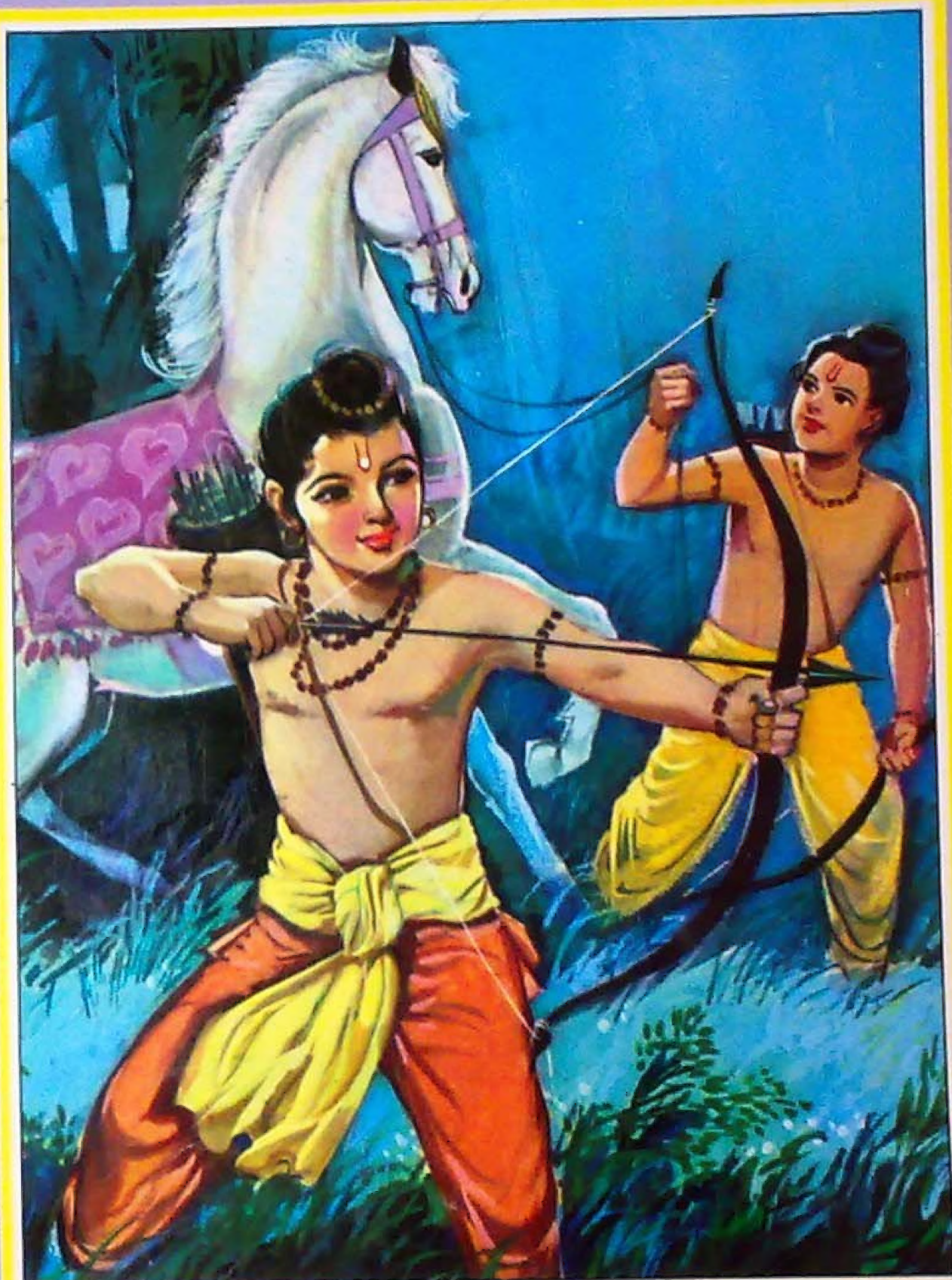




Vol. 503 Rs. 25

The Sons of Rama



Amar Chitra Katha: the Glorious Heritage of India



The Sons Of Rama

The story of Rama and Sita was first set down by the sage Valmiki in his epic poem *Ramayana*.

Rama was the eldest son of Dasharatha, the king of Ayodhya, who had three wives – Kaushalya, Kaikeyi and Sumitra. Rama was the son of Kaushalya, Bharata of Kaikeyi and Laxmana and Shatrughna of Sumitra. The four princes grew up to be brave and valiant. Rama won the hand of Sita, the daughter of King Janaka. Dasharatha wanted to crown Rama as the king but Kaikeyi objected. Using boons granted to her by Dasharatha earlier, she had Rama banished to the forest. Sita and Laxmana decided to follow Rama. While in the forest, a Rakshasi, Shoorpanakha, accosted Laxmana but had her nose cut off by him. In revenge, her brother Ravana, king of Lanka, carried Sita away. Rama and Laxmana set out to look for her and with the help of an army of monkeys, defeated Ravana.

On returning to Ayodhya after fourteen years of exile, Rama banished Sita because of the suspicions of his subjects. In the ashrama of sage Valmiki, she gave birth to her twin sons, Luv and Kush.

Based on Uttara-Ramacharita of Bhavabhuti.



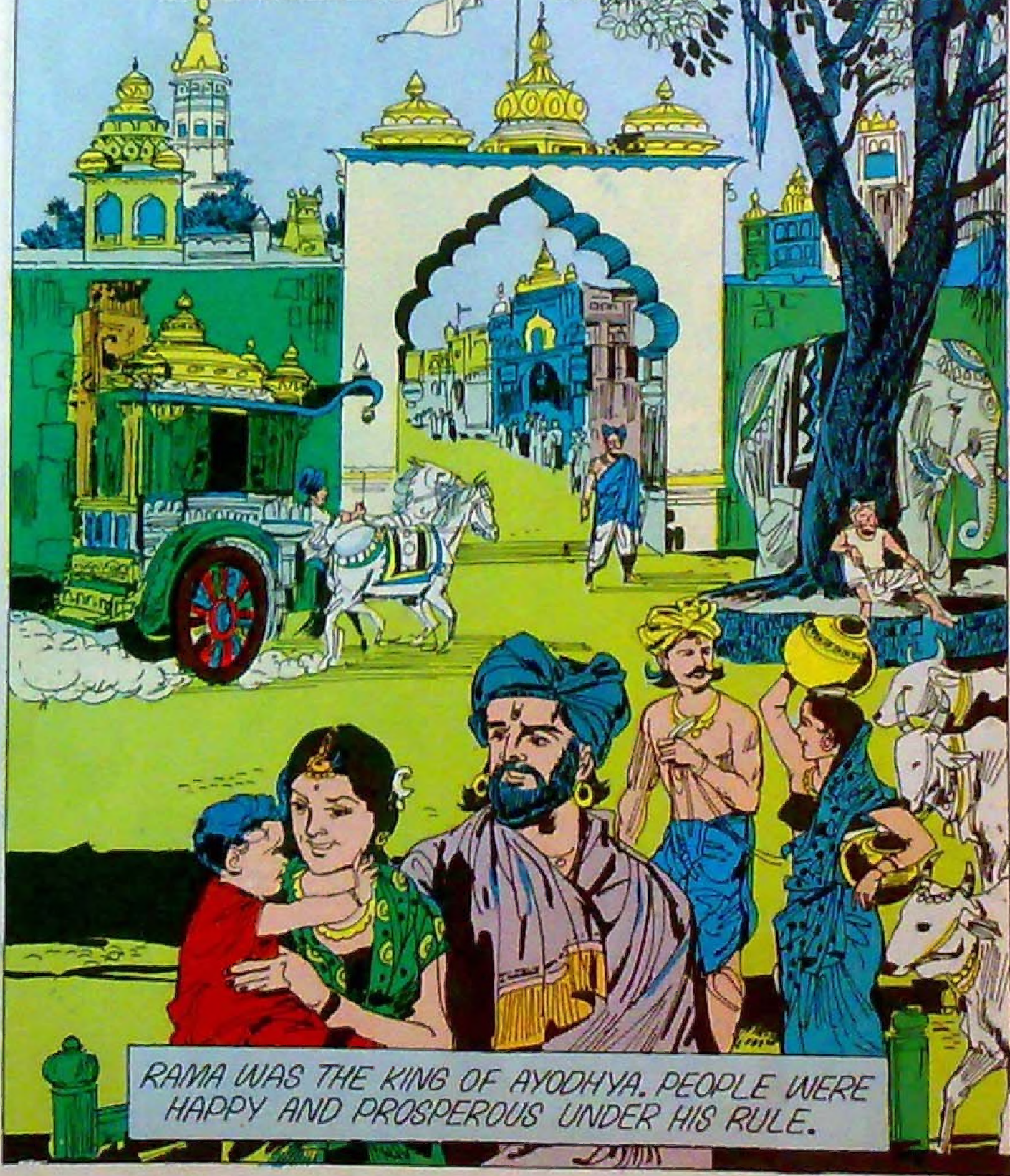
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THE SONS OF RAMA



RAMA WAS THE KING OF AYODHYA. PEOPLE WERE
HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS UNDER HIS RULE.

WITH HIS BROTHERS, LAXMANA, BHARATA AND SHATRUGHNA, RAMA USED TO VISIT HIS PEOPLE AND LISTEN TO THEIR PROBLEMS...



...AND EVERY EVENING WITH HIS QUEEN SITA, HE RECEIVED HIS MEN, ONE EVENING -





MAHARAJ
TODAY A
LAUNDERER
WAS BEATING
HIS WIFE,
AND HE SAID...



GET OUT OF MY
HOUSE! I'M NOT
LIKE RAMA WHO
ACCEPTS A WIFE
AFTER SHE
HAS LIVED IN
ANOTHER'S
HOUSE!



SHOULD I TURN MY
WIFE OUT BECAUSE
OF WHAT THE
LAUNDERER SAID?
NO... NO... AND
SHE IS SOON
TO BECOME
A MOTHER!



BUT MY FIRST
DUTY IS
TOWARDS
MY PEOPLE...
I HAVE TO
SEND HER
AWAY...

THE FOLLOWING DAY HE SENT
FOR LAXMANA.

YOU WILL TAKE
SITA INTO THE
JUNGLES AND
LEAVE HER
THERE.

BUT...

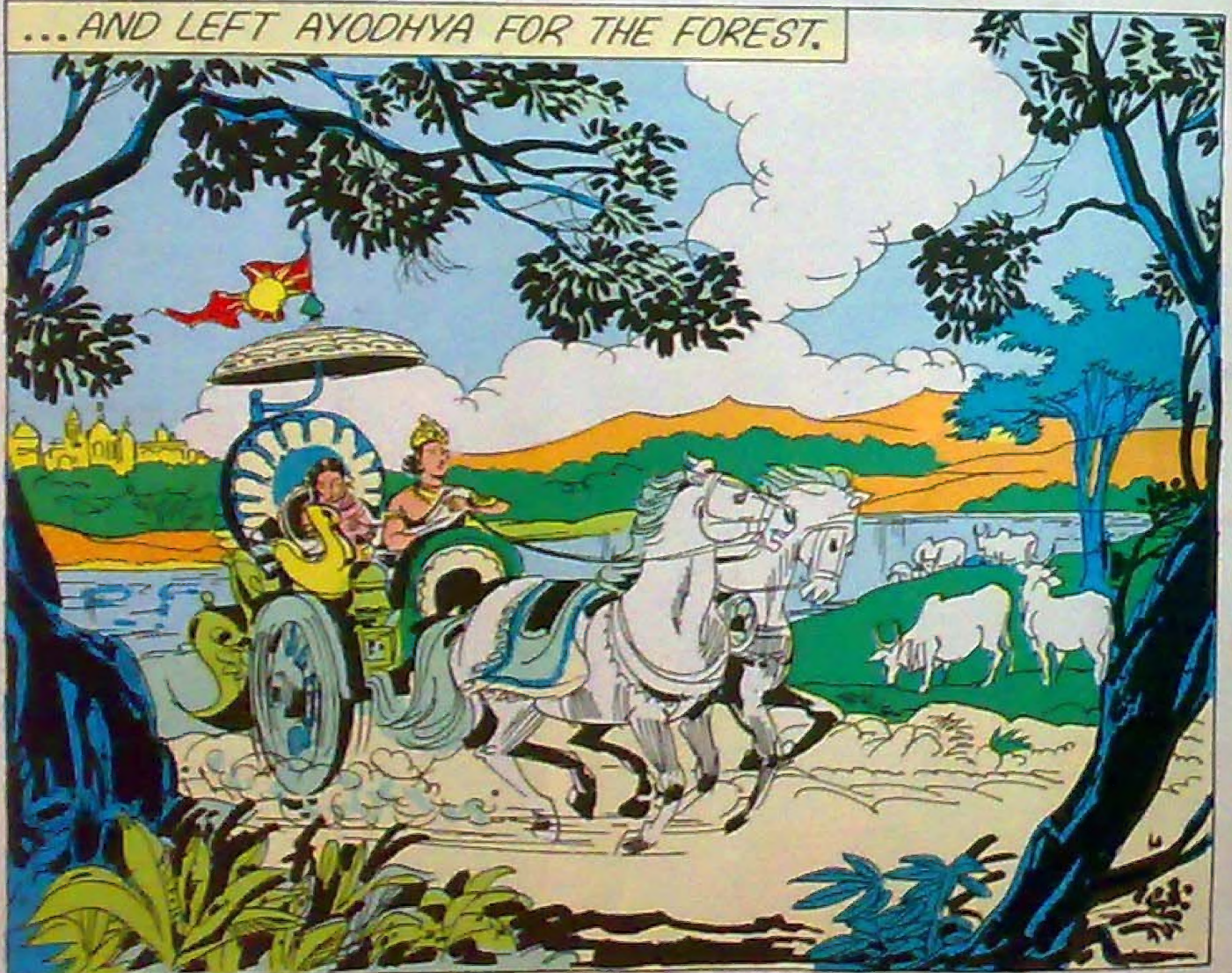
NO BUTS,
THIS IS MY
DECISION!



LAXMANA GOT HIS CHARIOT
READY...



...AND LEFT AYODHYA FOR THE FOREST.





LAXMANA, THIS JUNGLE IS SO FRIGHTENING. I'M SCARED!

HOW CAN I LEAVE HER IN THIS WILD JUNGLE? BUT I MUST OBEY RAMA'S COMMAND!

AFTER LAXMANA LEFT FOR AYODHYA, SITA WAS ALONE IN THE JUNGLE.

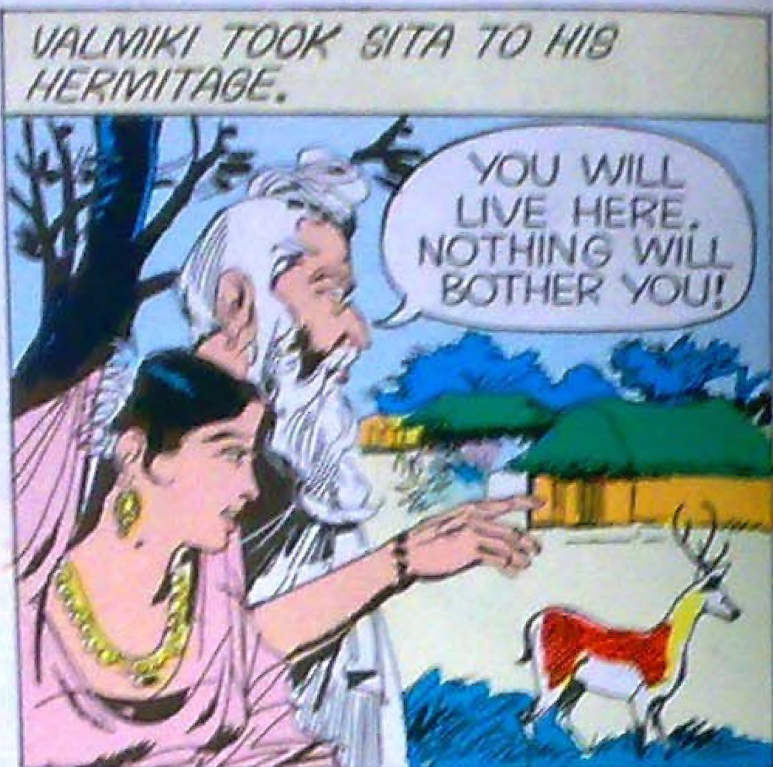
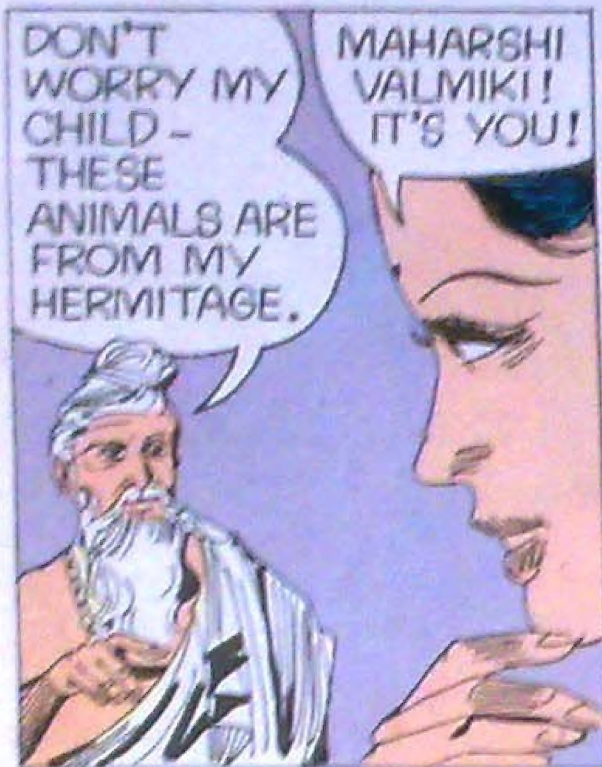
JUST THEN A SERPENT APPEARED.



WHERE SHALL I GO?



HELP! HELP!



VALMIKI'S HERMITAGE BECAME SITA'S HAVEN - SHE WAS BLESSED WITH TWIN SONS.



AS TIME PASSED, SITA'S TWIN SONS, LUV AND KUSH, GREW UP.



BUT THE MAHARSHI TAUGHT YOU NOT TO BE CRUEL TO ANIMALS!

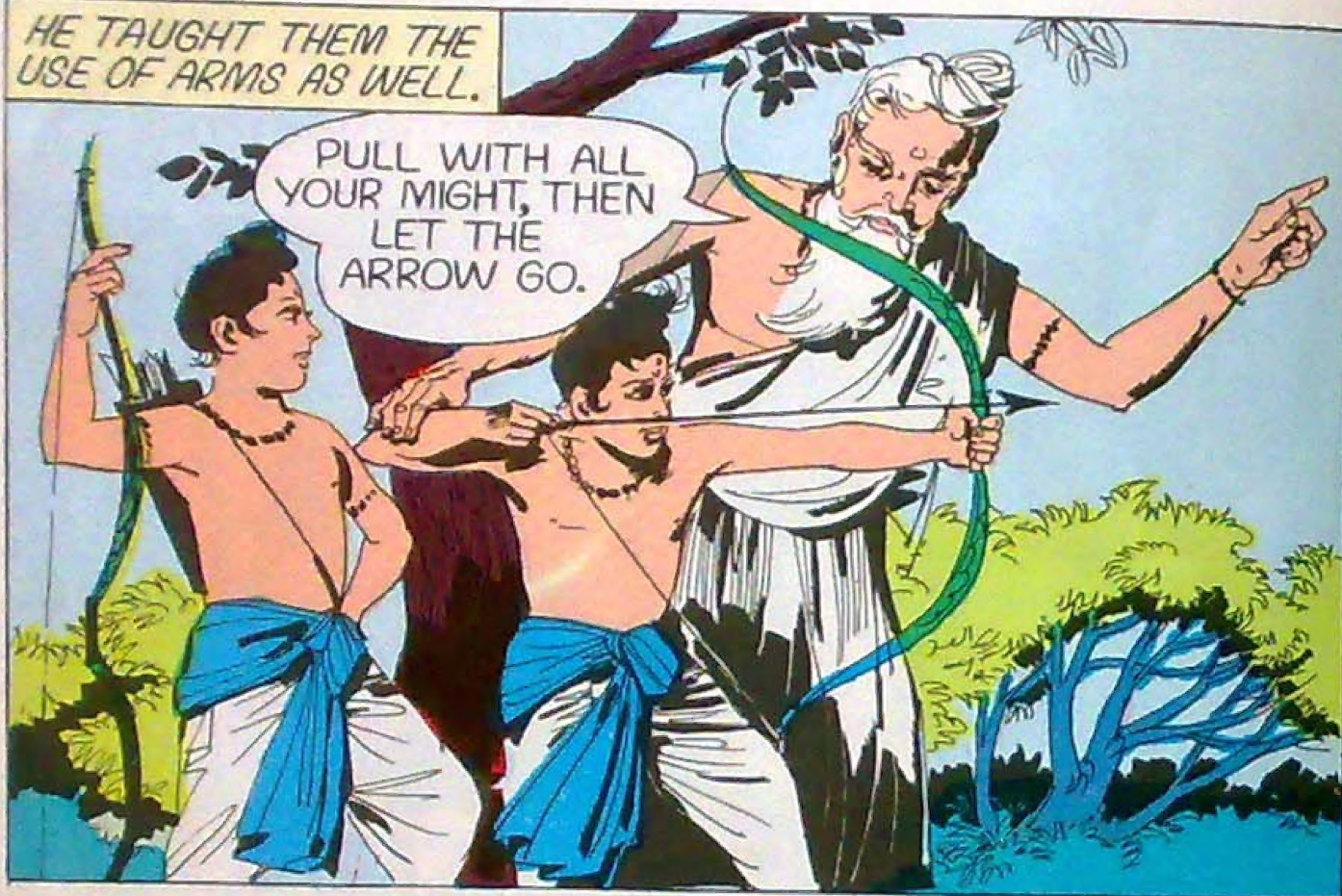


MAHARSHI VALMIKI PERSONALLY ATTENDED TO THEIR EDUCATION.



HE TAUGHT THEM THE
USE OF ARMS AS WELL.

PULL WITH ALL
YOUR MIGHT, THEN
LET THE
ARROW GO.

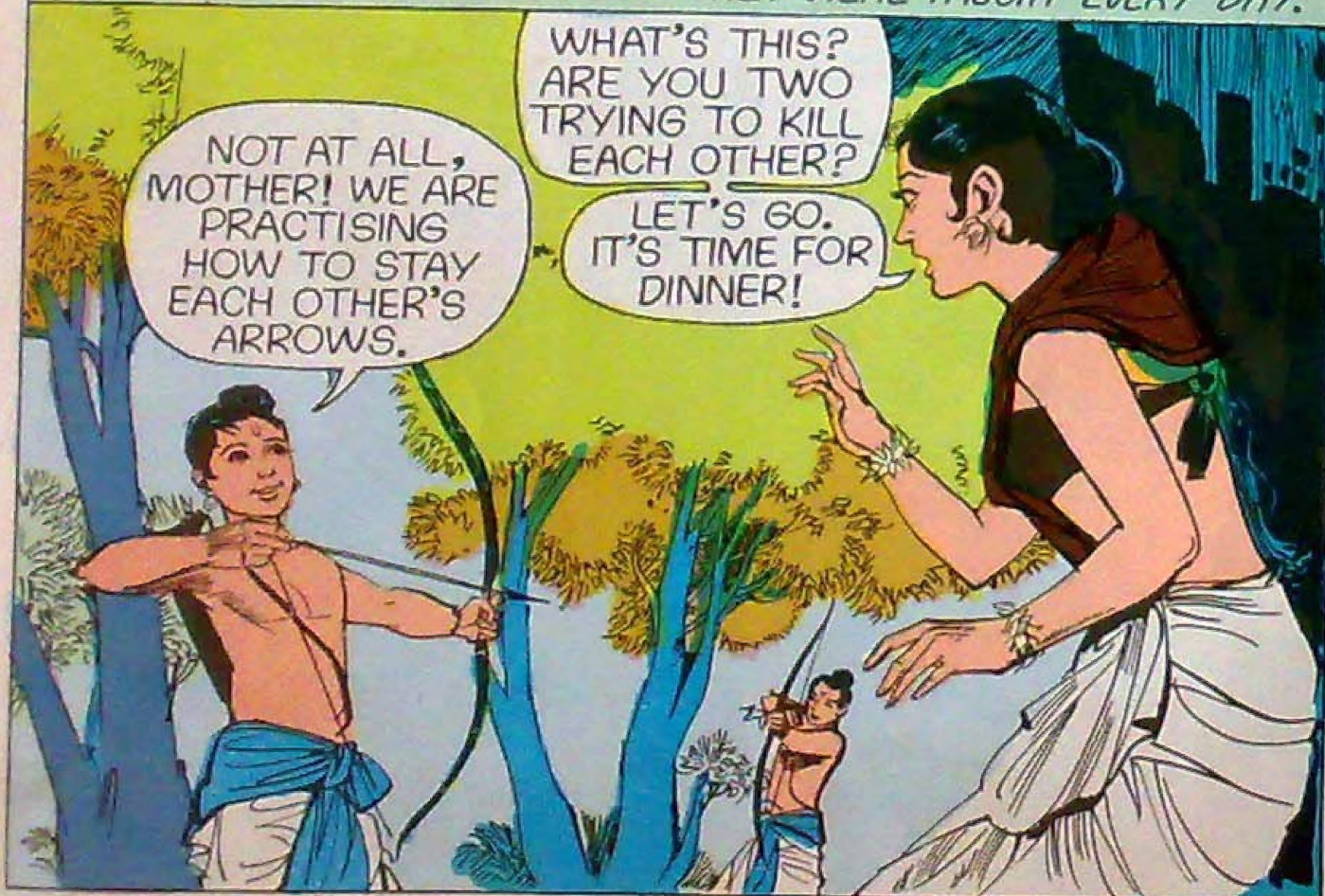


LUV AND KUSH PRACTISED WHAT THEY WERE TAUGHT EVERY DAY.

NOT AT ALL,
MOTHER! WE ARE
PRACTISING
HOW TO STAY
EACH OTHER'S
ARROWS.

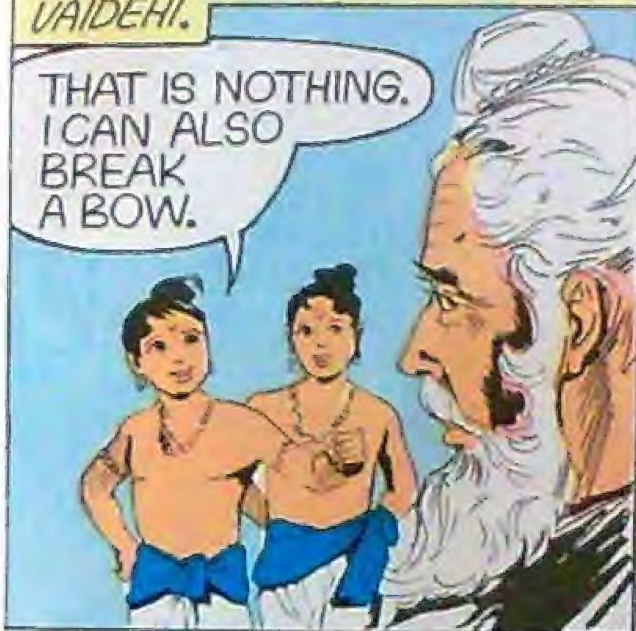
WHAT'S THIS?
ARE YOU TWO
TRYING TO KILL
EACH OTHER?

LET'S GO.
IT'S TIME FOR
DINNER!



VALMIKI TOLD THEM THE STORY OF THE RAMAYANA, OF HOW RAMA BROKE THE BOW OF LORD SHIVA AND MARRIED VAIDEHI.

THAT IS NOTHING. I CAN ALSO BREAK A BOW.



"KAIKEYI BANISHED RAMA INTO THE JUNGLES FOR FOURTEEN YEARS."

I'M GOING INTO THE JUNGLES TO KEEP MY FATHER'S PROMISE!

I WANT TO GO WITH YOU!



"ONE DAY AS RAMA WENT AFTER A DEER, RAVANA KIDNAPPED VAIDEHI."



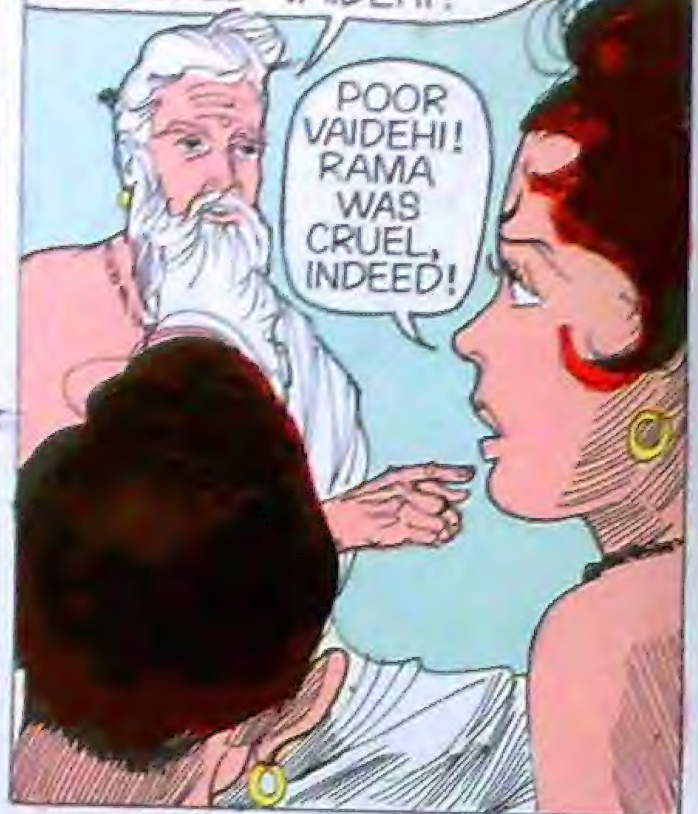
"IN THE BATTLE THAT FOLLOWED, RAVANA WAS KILLED BY RAMA."



"AFTER SPENDING FOURTEEN YEARS IN EXILE, RAMA RETURNED TO AYODHYA AND WAS CROWNED KING."



ONE DAY, BECAUSE OF WHAT A LAUNDERER SAID, RAMA BANISHED VAIDEHI!



POOR VAIDEHI!
RAMA
WAS
CRUEL,
INDEED!

VALMIKI TAUGHT THEM OF "YAJNA" AND SUCH OTHER MATTERS TOO.



"SWAHA"

"SWAHA"

EVERY DAY THEY PRACTISED THE ARTS OF WAR. THEY ALSO TALKED ABOUT VAIDEHI.

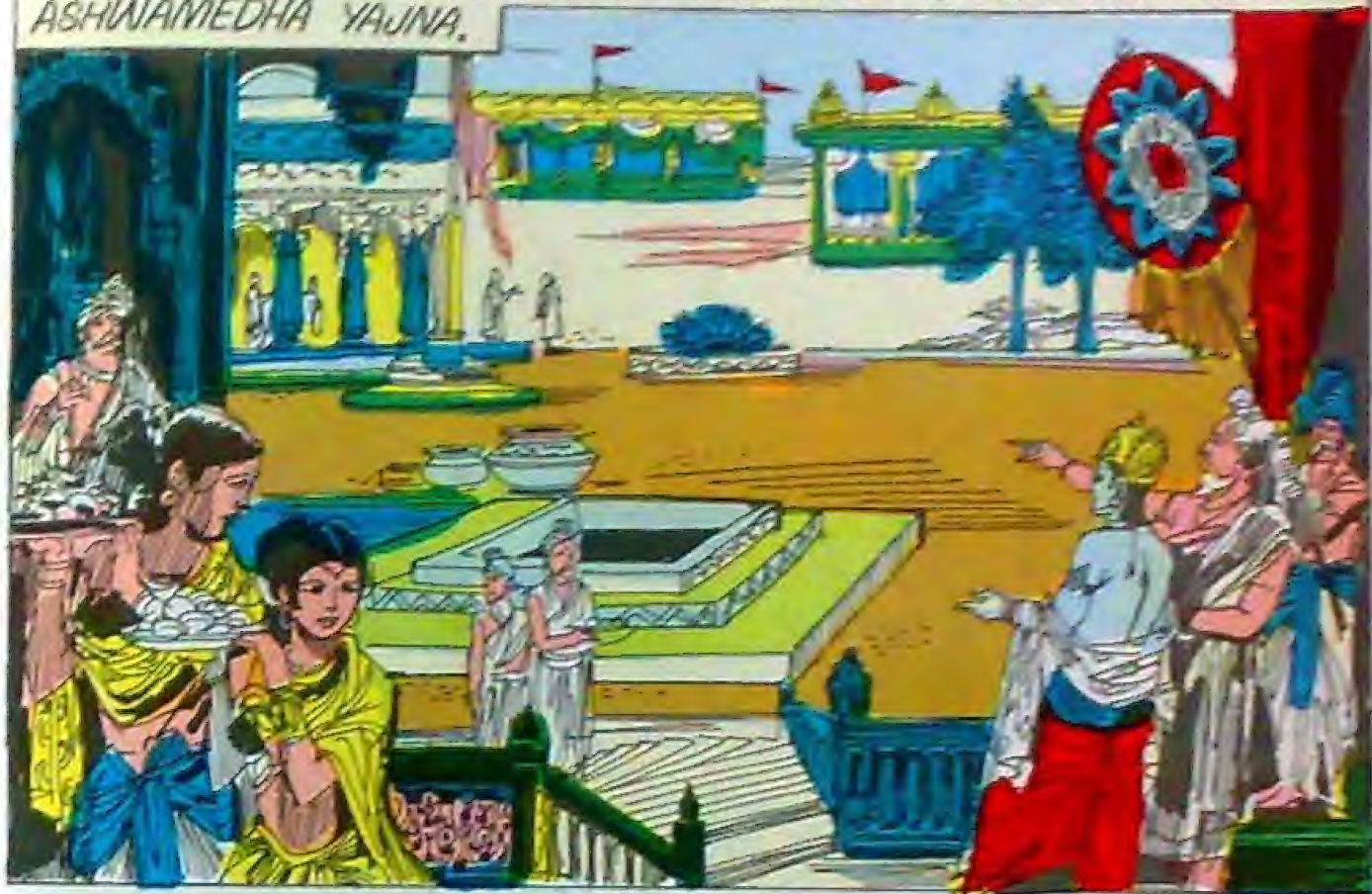


I WONDER
WHAT
HAPPENED
TO VAIDEHI?

IF EVER WE
MEET HER, WE'LL
BRING HER TO
THE HERMITAGE.

THEY DID NOT REALISE THAT
VAIDEHI WAS NONE OTHER
THAN SITA, THEIR MOTHER.

MEANWHILE, IN AYODHYA RAMA PREPARED TO PERFORM THE ASHWINAMEDHA YAJNA.



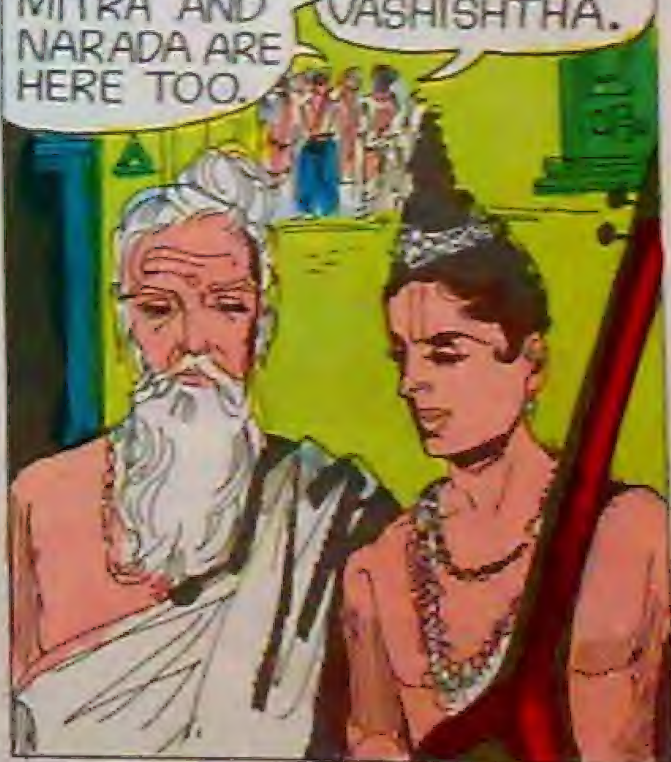
AS PEOPLE PASSED BY HIS ROYAL PALACE -



ALL WERE INVITED TO THE YAJNA.

THE GREAT SAGES, VISHWAMITRA AND NARADA ARE HERE TOO.

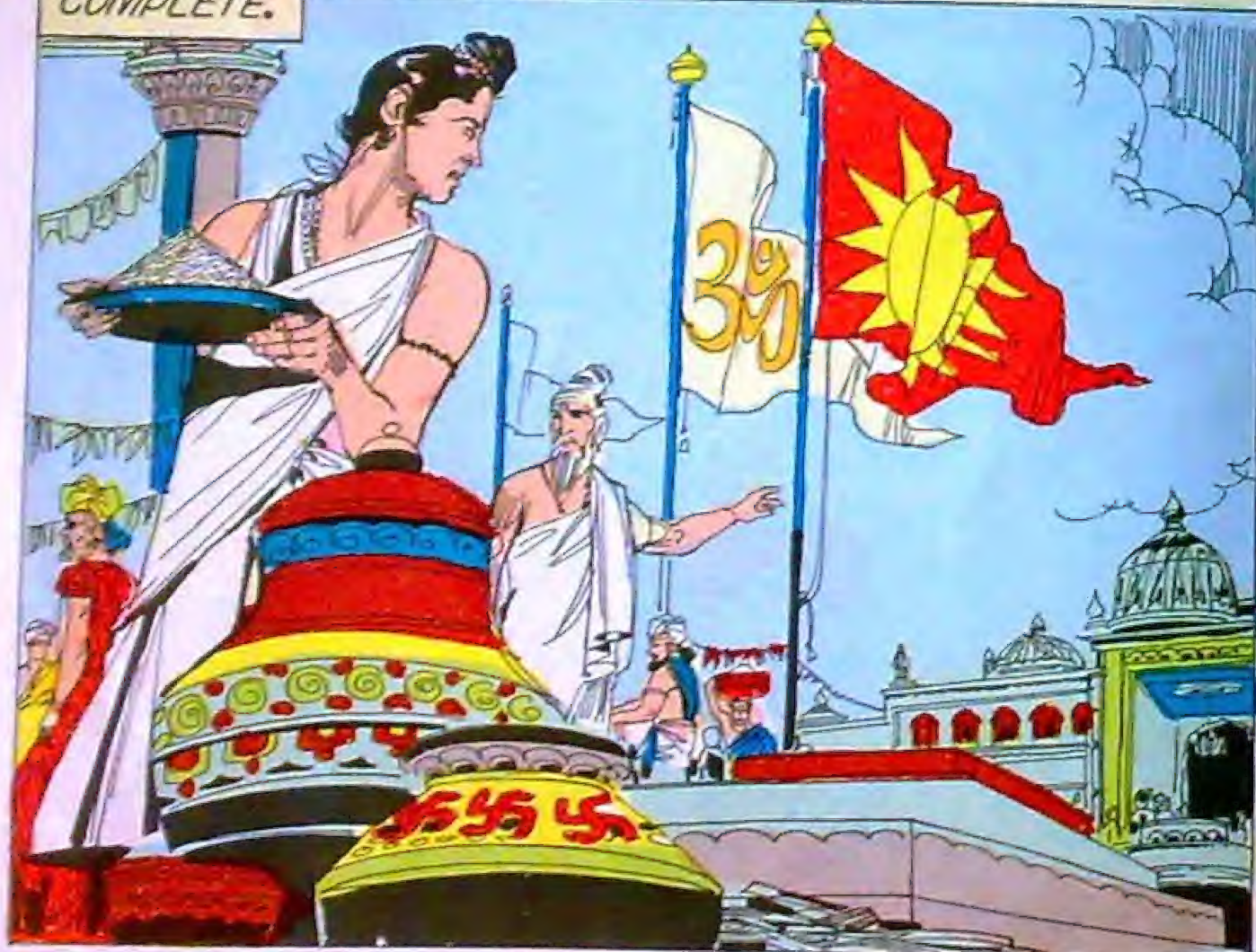
THEY ARE STAYING WITH THE SAGE VASHISHTHA.



RULERS FROM ALL AROUND CAME WITH THEIR ARMIES.



THE YAJNASHALA WAS DECORATED; PREPARATIONS WERE NOW COMPLETE.



BUT NARADA HAD SOMETHING TO SAY TO VISHVA MITRA.

HOW CAN RAMA PERFORM THE YAJNA WITHOUT HIS WIFE SITA?

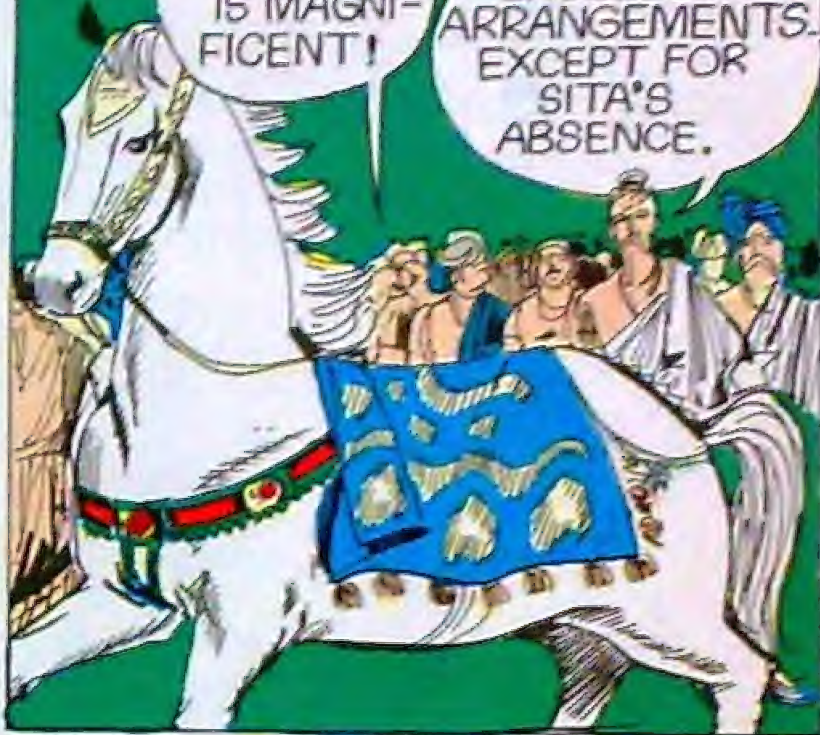
HE WILL HAVE TO USE A GOLDEN STATUE OF HER!



A WHITE HORSE WITH BLACK EARS WAS GOT READY FOR THE YAJNA.

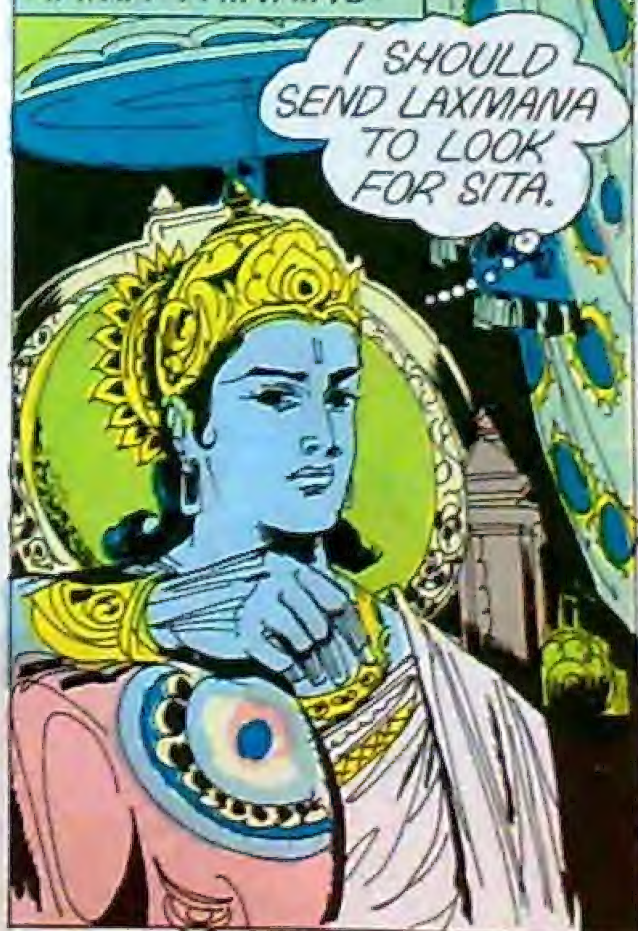
THE HORSE IS MAGNIFICENT!

EXCELLENT ARRANGEMENTS. EXCEPT FOR SITA'S ABSENCE.

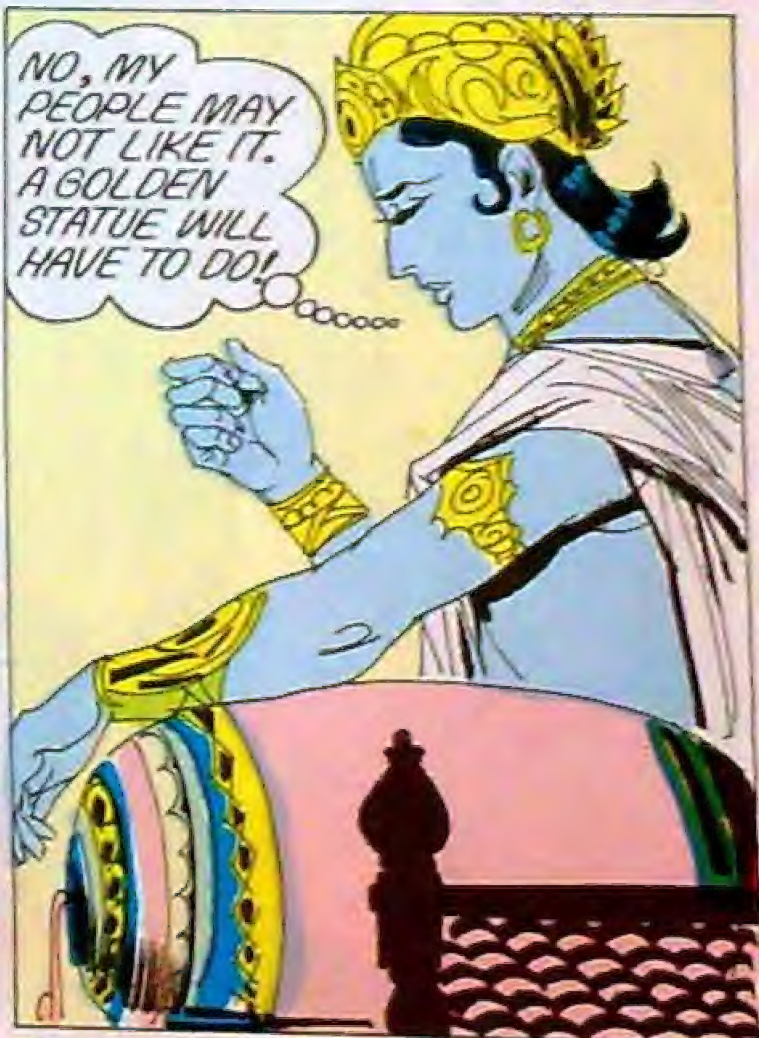


THE MENTION OF SITA SET RAMA THINKING.

I SHOULD SEND LAXMANA TO LOOK FOR SITA.

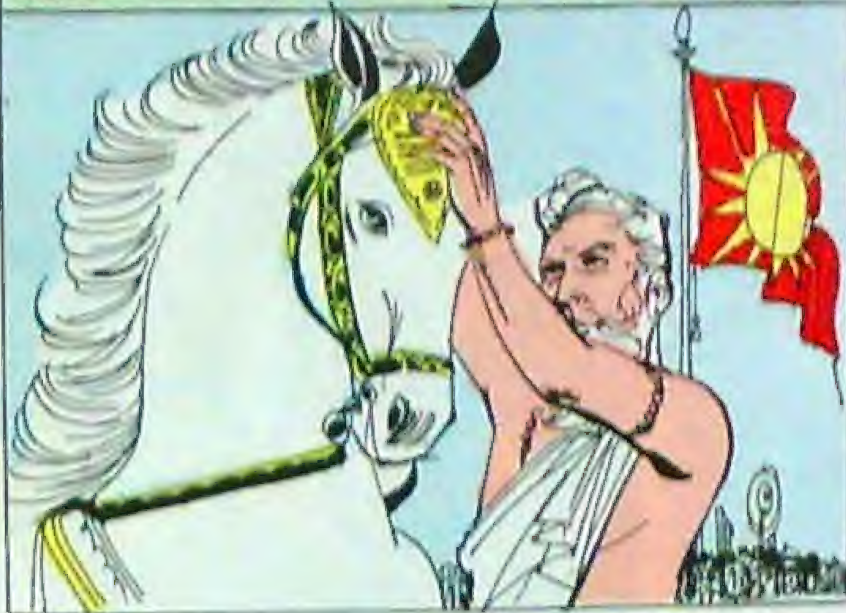


NO, MY PEOPLE MAY NOT LIKE IT. A GOLDEN STATUE WILL HAVE TO DO!

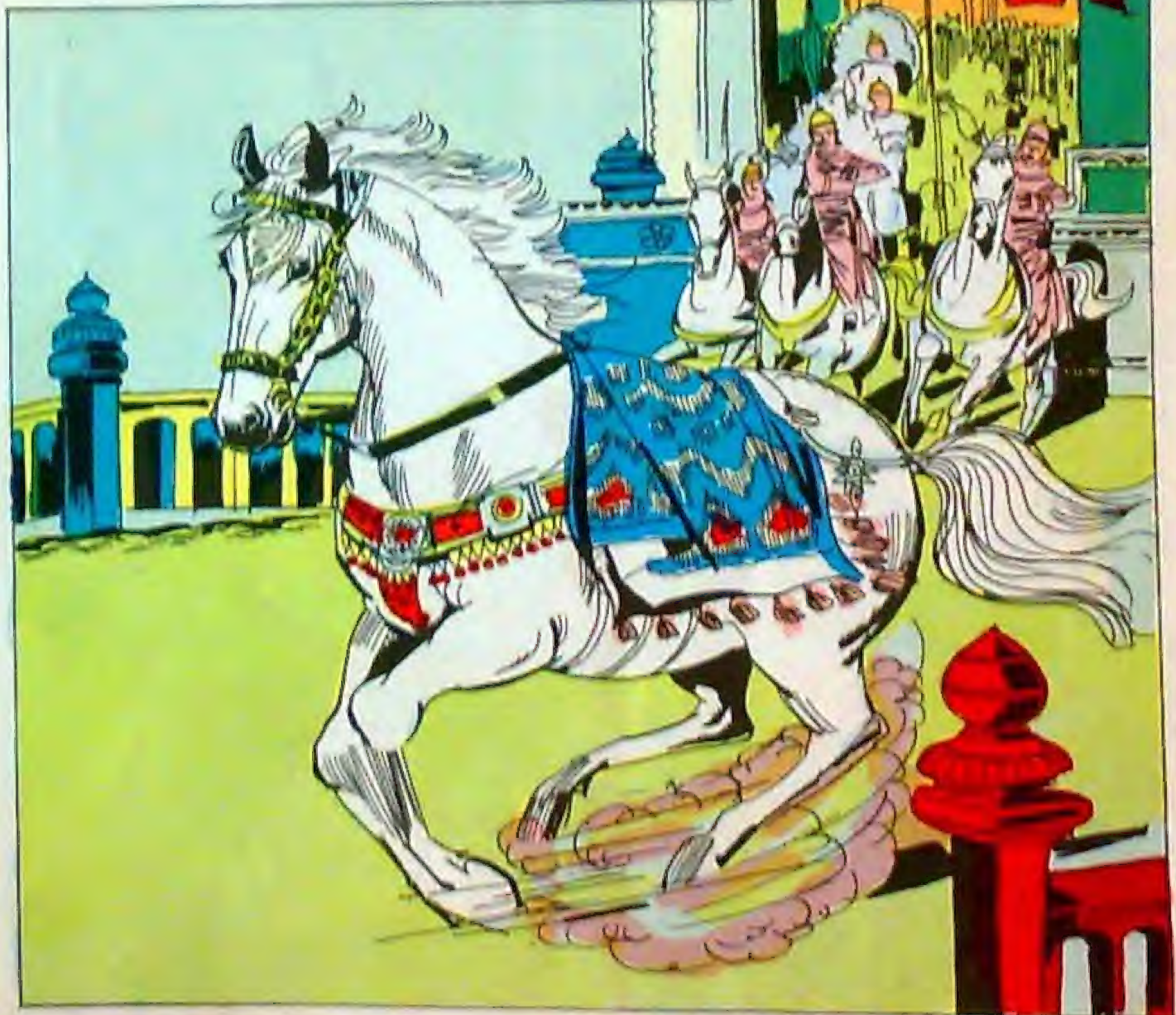




VISHWAMITRA TIED THE CEREMONIAL
GOLD LEAF ON THE HORSE'S FOREHEAD.



THE HORSE WAS THEN
LET LOOSE AND THE
ARMY FOLLOWED IT.



AS THE HORSE ENTERED A RULER'S DOMAIN-

WHAT SHALL WE DO, MY MINISTER?

WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING.

WE ARE TOO WEAK. EVEN RAVANA WAS NO MATCH FOR RAMA.

MANY A RULER ACCEPTED RAVANA'S SUPREMACY WITHOUT A FIGHT.

NOBODY CHECKS THE HORSE.

WHO DARES FIGHT THIS ARMY?



LUV AND KUSH SAW THE HORSE FROM AFAR.

KUSH, LET'S CATCH THAT HORSE!

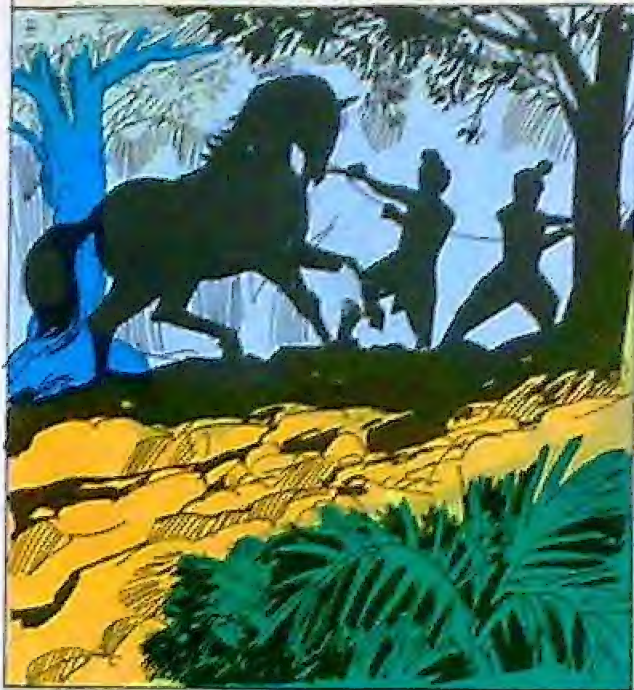


LOOK AT THIS, LUV. ANYONE WHO HOLDS THIS HORSE WILL HAVE TO FIGHT!

THEN WE WILL FIGHT!



LUV AND KUSH TIED THE HORSE TO A TREE.



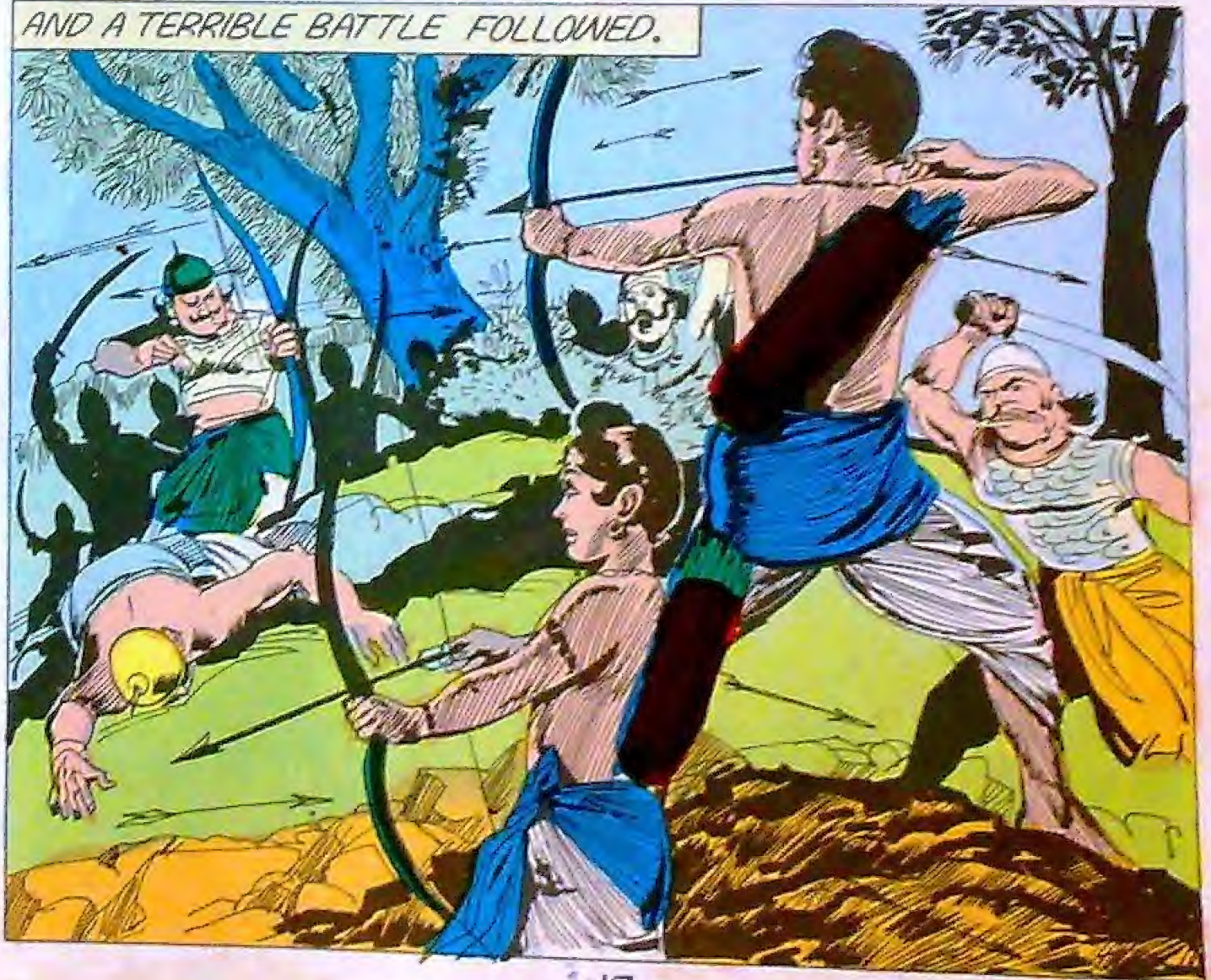
ONE OF RAMA'S SOLDIERS CAME UP TO THEM.



CHILDREN! GIVE THAT HORSE BACK TO ME!

SHAME ON YOU FOR BEGGING.

AND A TERRIBLE BATTLE FOLLOWED.



ONE OF THE SOLDIERS HASTENED
BACK TO SHATRUGHNA.

SIRE! THOSE TWO
CHILDREN ARE
IMPOSSIBLE!
THEY HAVE
MADE FOOLS
OF US!

I'LL TEACH
THEM
HOW TO
BEHAVE!



HE'S VERY
PROUD OF
HIS
CHARIOT!

WE'LL
SHOW
HIM!

LUV, SHOOT
AT THE
WHEEL!

H-E-R-E
GOES!



JUST ONE
SHOT TOOK
CARE OF
HIM!

AS SHATRUGHNA FELL, RAMA'S
ARMY FLED IN DISARRAY.



I'VE LOST
A SHOE!

I HAVE
LOST MY
SWORD!

SOME OF THE SOLDIERS
WENT UP TO RAMA.

VICTORY TO
RAMA. TWO
YOUNG
BOYS... JUST
TWO OF
THEM...

YES SIRE, THEY
MADE HIM FALL
FROM HIS
CHARIOT!

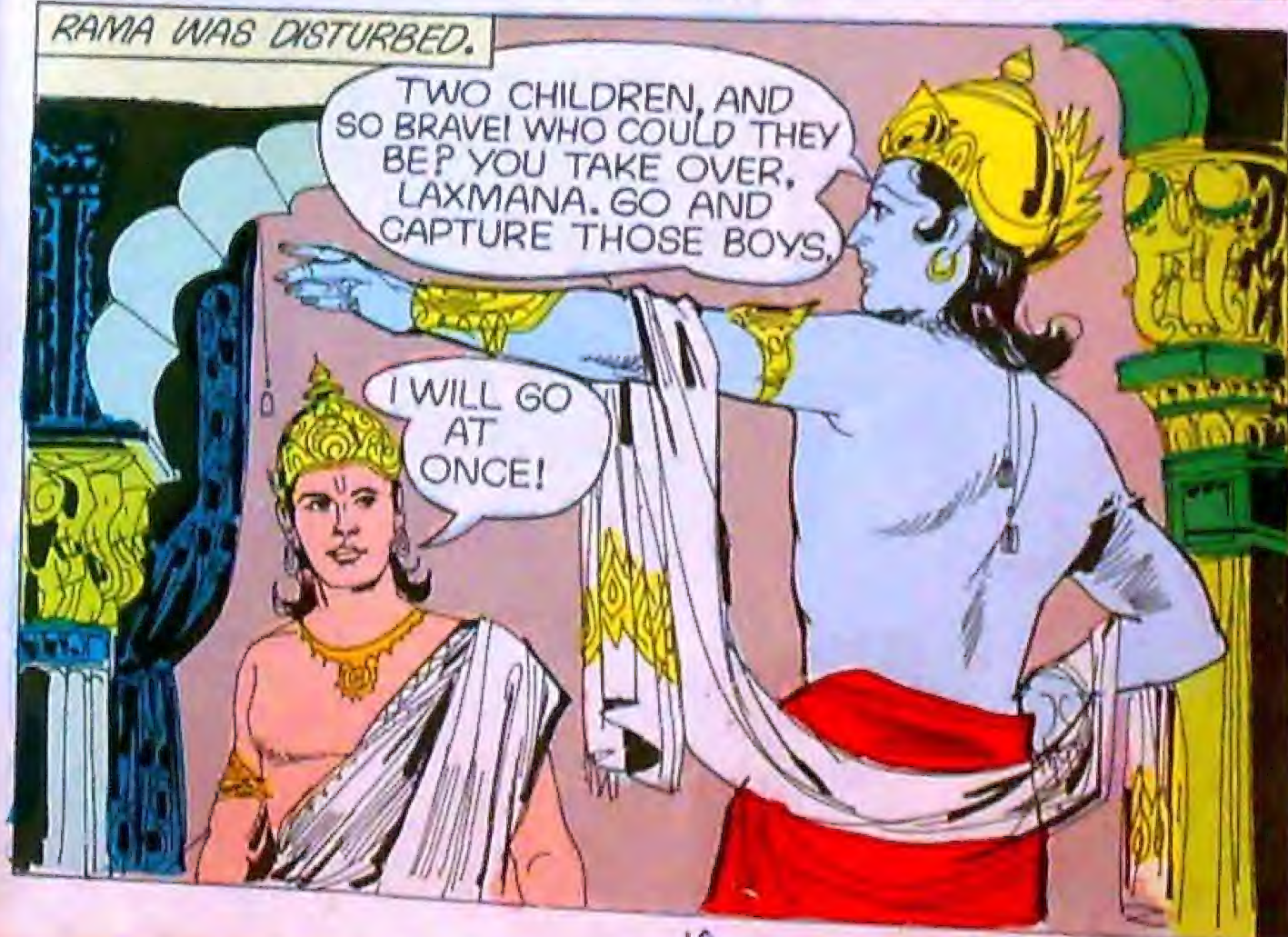


SHATRUGHNA
FALLEN!!

RAMA WAS DISTURBED.

TWO CHILDREN, AND
SO BRAVE! WHO COULD THEY
BE? YOU TAKE OVER,
LAXMANA. GO AND
CAPTURE THOSE BOYS.

I WILL GO
AT
ONCE!



LAKSHMANA MARCHED WITH THE ARMY.

GLORY
TO RAMA!

LAKSHMANA WAS LOST IN
THOUGHT.

TWO
YOUNG
BOYS!
UP
AGAINST
RAMA!

GO AWAY NOW, BOYS!

TAKE A
LOOK AT
HIM
FIRST.



LUV
YOU STAY
WITH THE
HORSE,
I'LL DEAL
WITH
HIM!



DON'T
YOU
WANT TO
LIVE,
LAD?

YOU BETTER
PRAY FOR
YOUR
OWN
LIFE!

AND KUSH SHOT AN ARROW...



...WHICH TOOK OFF WITH LAKSHMAN'S
HELMET.



...THE SOLDIERS WHISPERED
AMONGST THEMSELVES.

THEIR ARROWS
SEEM TO
FLY BY
MAGIC!

WE SHOULD
MAKE FRIENDS
WITH THEM.

KUSH AND LAXMANA ENGAGED IN A FURIOUS BATTLE.



KUSH WAS WOUNDED IN THE FIGHT.



ENRAGED, LUV CHALLENGED LAXMANA TO A DUEL.

I WON'T LET YOU LIVE AFTER WHAT YOU HAVE DONE TO KUSH!



LUV HAD HIS REVENGE. LAXMANA FELL UNCONSCIOUS.



RAMA WAS VERY UPSET WHEN HE HEARD THE NEWS.

NOW BHARATA, YOU MUST GO WITH THE MONKEY FORCES.



AND THE MONKEYS PREPARED FOR BATTLE.



HANUMAN ALSO ACCOMPANIED BHARATA.



LUV AND KUSH EXCHANGED MEANINGFUL LOOKS.

SAY, LET'S MAKE MONKEYS OUT OF THESE MONKEYS!

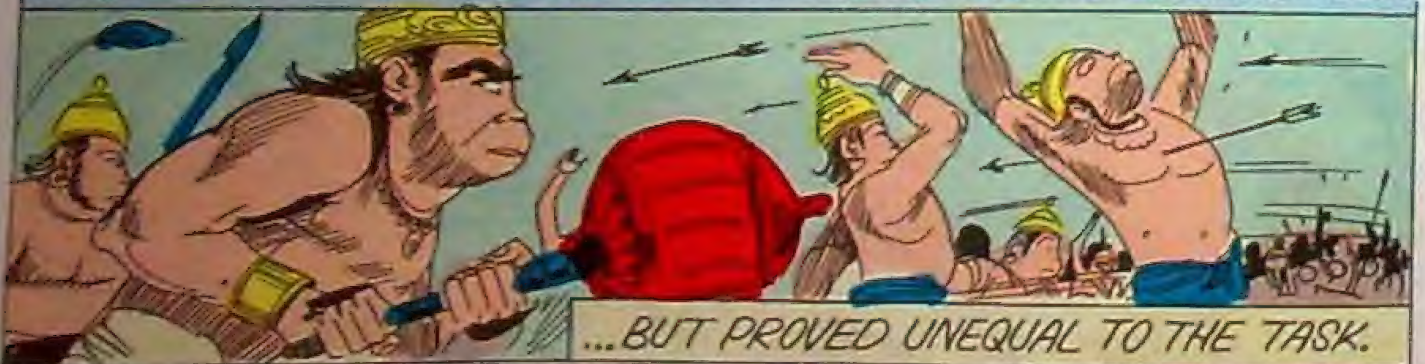
THE SOONER THE BETTER!



INSTANTLY AN ARROW STRUCK HANUMAN'S MACE.



THE MONKEY FORCES WENT INTO ACTION AGAINST LUV AND KUSH.



...BUT PROVED UNEQUAL TO THE TASK.

BHARATA ALSO FELL AND HANUMAN HURRIED BACK TO RAMA.



RAMA LED HIS HUGE FORCES.



RAMA DECIDED TO FIND OUT ABOUT THE CHILDREN.

WHO ARE YOUR
FATHER
AND MOTHER?

WE DO NOT
KNOW ABOUT OUR
FATHER. BUT SITA IS OUR
MOTHER. BUT WHY ARE
YOU SO INTERESTED
ANYWAY?



THOUGH THE BOYS DID NOT KNOW THEIR FATHER, RAMA
RECOGNISED THEM. HIS BOW DROPPED FROM HIS HANDS.

YOU ARE SITA'S...

LOOK, HE IS
FAINTING! AND JUST
BECAUSE OF WHAT
WE SAID. LET'S GO
AND TAKE CARE OF
HIS ARMY.



SOON LUV AND KUSH HAD
THE MONKEYS AT THEIR
MERCY.



THEY TIED HANUMAN NEAR THE
HORSE.



THE MONKEYS DEALT WITH, LUV
AND KUSH RETURNED TO RAMA.

GOODNESS!
HE IS STILL UN-
CONSCIOUS!



LET'S
TAKE
AWAY
HIS
CROWN.



WITH THE HORSE AND THE CROWN, LUV AND KUSH APPROACHED THEIR MOTHER.

WE HAVE BROUGHT HOME PRECIOUS BOOTY, MOTHER!

HEAVENS! NO! DID YOU KILL HIM?

AS RAMA RECOVERED CONSCIOUSNESS VALMIKI BROUGHT LUV AND KUSH TO MEET HIM.

MAHARSHI!

HE DID NOT DIE MOTHER, HE IS ALIVE!

HERE ARE YOUR SONS, RAMA!

VAIDEHI OF THE RAMAYANA IS NONE OTHER THAN OUR MOTHER, LUV!

HANUMAN WAS STILL
TIED UP.



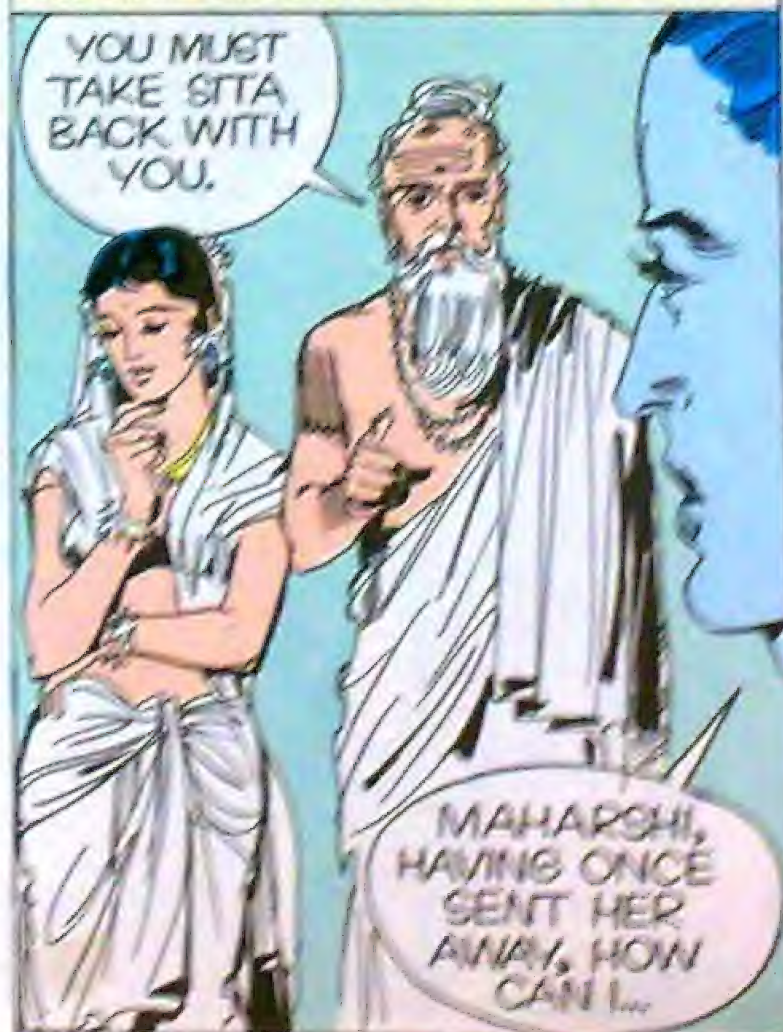
WON'T YOU
EVER UNTIE ME,
BOYS?

SAY WITH
ME, GLORY
BE TO
RAMA!



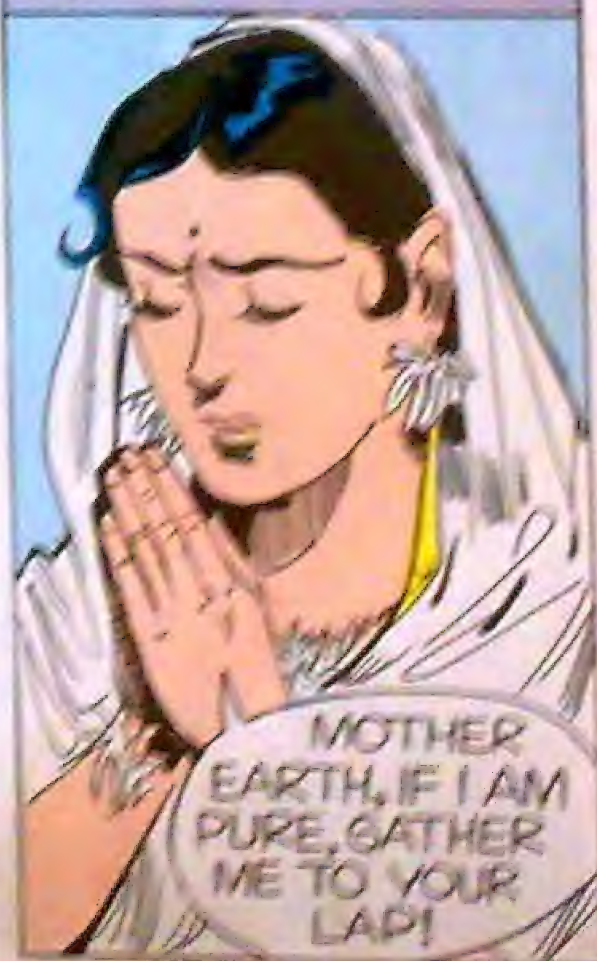
VALMIKI BROUGHT SITA FORWARD.

YOU MUST
TAKE SITA
BACK WITH
YOU.



MAHARSHI,
HAVING ONCE
SENT HER
AWAY, HOW
CAN I...

SITA COULD NOT BEAR
THE HUMILIATION ANY
MORE.



MOTHER
EARTH, IF I AM
PURE, GATHER
ME TO YOUR
LAP!

AND THE EARTH STARTED UNDER
HER FEET.



AND SITA BEGAN TO SHOUT AND

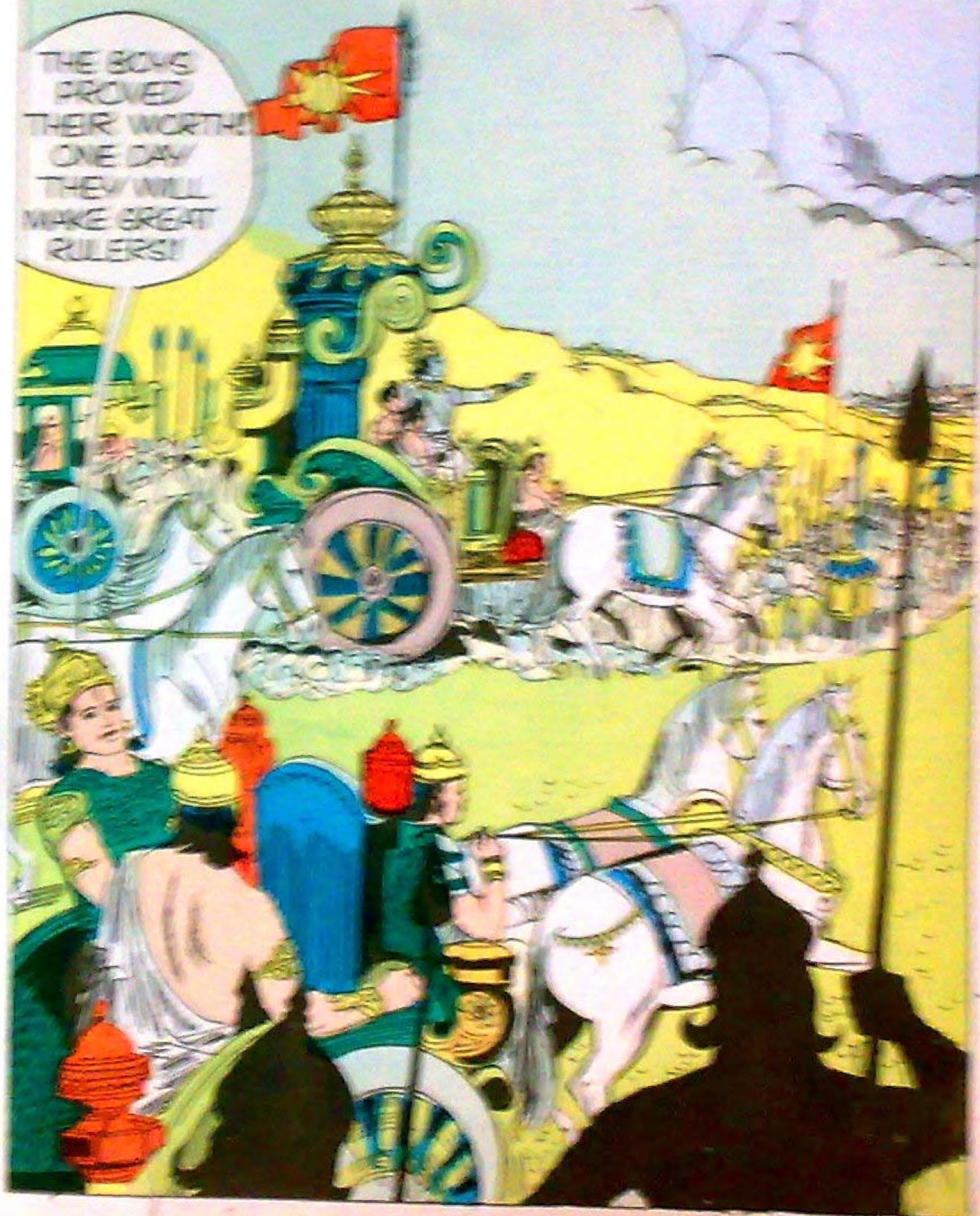


RAJAH BURSTED AND ANSWERED SONG.



WITH HIS SONS AND HIS FATHER,
RAHVI RETURNED TO ALCADHAR.

THE BOYS
PROVED
THEIR WORTH!
ONE DAY
THEY WILL
MAKE GREAT
RULERS!



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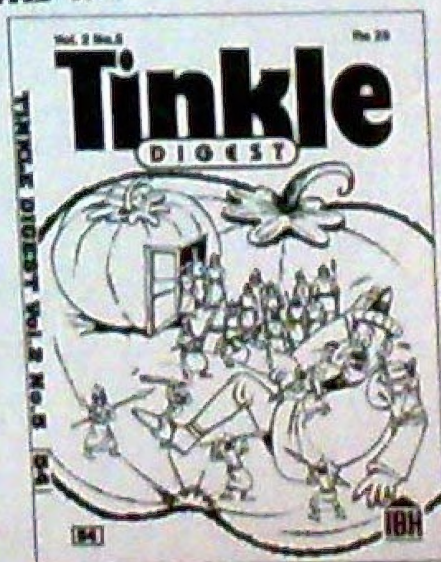
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